



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 October 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The *Morning Journal* reports that the NASA Plum Brook Station's nuclear reactor in Ohio will be discarded. The reactor has not been operational since 1973, but the site has been designated as contaminated for purposes of cleanup. (See item [7](#))
- According to a report obtained by *USA Today*, screeners at Los Angeles, Chicago O'Hare, and San Francisco international airports failed to detect fake dangerous materials carried by undercover agents in 60 percent of tests. Experts were puzzled by the high failure rate, which, they believe, might encourage terrorists' attempts to bring such materials on planes. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 18, The Associated Press* – (National) **Dozens of coal plant proposals scrapped due to global warming concerns.** At least 16 coal-fired power plant proposals nationwide have been scrapped in recent months and more than three dozen have been delayed as utilities face increasing pressure due to concerns over global warming and rising construction costs. The slow pace of new plant construction reflects a dramatic change in fortune for a fuel source that just a few years ago was poised for a major resurgence. Combined, the canceled and delayed projects represent enough electricity to power approximately 20 million homes.

The U.S. Department of Energy's latest tally of pending coal plants, released last week, shows eight projects totaling 7,000 megawatts have been canceled since May. That is besides the cancellation earlier this year of eight plants in Texas totaling 6,864 megawatts. Utilities have also pushed back construction on another 32,000 megawatts worth of projects, according to the Energy Department report.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,303061,00.html>

2. *October 18, Bloomberg* – (Alaska) **Alaska says BP pipeline still leaking ‘at slow rate.’** A previously closed BP Plc pipeline at the Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska that spilled 46 barrels of methanol, water and residual oil on October 15 is still leaking “at a slow rate,” regulators said. The pipeline, which carries oil, water and natural gas from a drill site to the Flow Station 2 processing center, was punctured when it shifted and struck a horizontal support, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said in a report yesterday. BP, Europe's second-biggest oil company, was using the methanol to thaw ice blockages in the idled pipeline. The spill will not be considered fully under control until the ruptured pipe is clamped, which may take up to 72 hours, the department said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=acrynGoHzlyE&refer=energy>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 18, Commission for Environmental Cooperation* – (National) **Toxic releases down from North American industry leaders, increasing from other facilities.** The latest Taking Stock report from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) reveals that a continued decline in releases of toxic chemicals to the environment –15 percent for the United States and Canada from 1998 to 2004 – is being driven by a group of industrial facilities that are the largest generators of emissions. The CEC report, however, also reveals that the leading role of the largest waste-producing facilities stands in stark contrast to a substantial increase in chemical releases and transfers by a much larger group of industrial facilities that report lower volumes of emissions. Released on October 18, the annual report compares industrial pollution from a matched set of facilities in Canada and the United States.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071018075932.htm>

4. *October 18, Reuters* – (Texas) **Dow Chemical Port Arthur, Texas, ethylene pipe explodes.** An ethylene pipeline in the city of Port Arthur, Texas, belonging to Dow Chemical ruptured and exploded Thursday morning, a spokesman for the Port Arthur Fire Department said. He said crews had blocked the pipe and were waiting for the fire to burn out. A nearby crude butadiene pipeline belonging to Texas Petrochemicals was also leaking. None of the area refineries or other industrial installations had been evacuated. Residents downwind of the fire were asked to stay in their homes as a precaution, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN18333259>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *October 18, The Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Federal officials meet with residents about old nuclear plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering four options for cleaning up the now closed Sequoyah Fuels uranium conversion facility near Gore. The options include one from Sequoyah Fuels in which all contaminated materials would be disposed of at the site and cost almost \$32 million. A second option calls for disposing of the materials at another location and would cost between \$190 and \$254 million. The third option would dispose of some materials on site and the rest at another location at a cost of \$38 to \$44 million. The final option calls for continuing operations at the plant with Sequoyah performing surveillance and maintenance indefinitely and continue cleaning up polluted groundwater. The plant opened in 1970 and was shut down in 1993 after several environmental violations including air contamination that killed a worker in 1986.
Source: <http://kswo.com/Global/story.asp?S=7232400>
6. *October 18, The Herald News* – (Illinois) **Nuclear center's location still uncertain.** Morris, Illinois is still in the running to be the home of a recycling center for spent nuclear fuel rods, but the date of the decision by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has been delayed. The CEO of the Grundy Economic Development Council attended a series of meetings with the DOE and other community representatives that are also being considered for the recycling center. At the meeting, the assistant secretary for the DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy announced that the location of the center would not be decided by the summer of 2008 as was planned. The DOE's proposal is to design, build and operate three facilities: an advanced fuel cycle research facility, a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor, which would destroy long-lived radioactive elements in the new fuel, while generating electricity. The proposal is part of President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. The facilities would recover about 95 percent of the energy available in spent nuclear fuel and reduce radioactive half-lives. There are 13 possible sites for the DOE's proposed project.
Source:
http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/608918,4_1_JO18_NUCLEAR_S1_article
7. *October 18, The Morning Journal* – (Ohio) **Nuclear reactor to be discarded.** The end is nearing for NASA Plum Brook Station's nuclear reactor. For years NASA and subcontractors have worked to take apart, clean and dispose of the nuclear reactor that was built to test potential spacecraft parts by exposing them to radiation. Although the reactor has not operated since 1973, the site is considered contaminated for purposes of cleanup. The decommissioning has passed several milestones in recent months, according to a report by the project manager. On August 20, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission published its intention to approve NASA's Final Status Survey Plan, which explains how the space agency will meet the project goals and terminate NASA's license to operate the reactor. Part of the final cleanup is completing decontamination throughout the entire facility, shipping and disposing of all packaged low-level radioactive waste on the site and excavating, testing and disposing of soil around the facility.
Source:
http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18929678&BRD=1699&PAG=461&dept_id=4

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 18, Marketwire* – (National) **TCS and Glowlink win \$8 million DoD contract.** TeleCommunication Systems, Inc. (TCS) a global leader in mission-critical wireless communications, and Glowlink Communications Technology, Inc., a premier manufacturer of satellite monitoring equipment, today announced they have won a satellite hardware and services contract valued at approximately \$8 million to support the spectrum management of the Wideband Global SATCOM Satellite (WGS) system and to continue support for the monitoring and service of the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) satellites. This award is a follow-on contract to an earlier award in January valued at about \$700,000 for spectrum management at two Wideband SATCOM Operations Centers (WSOCs). The contract has a three-year period of performance, beginning this month, and is expected to provide approximately \$1 million of products and services before the end of calendar year 2007. WGS offers continuation and augmentation of the services currently provided by the DSCS and the Global Broadcast Service (GBS) Ka services provided by GBS payloads on ultra-high frequency follow-on satellites. WGS is a high-capacity satellite communications system designed to support the warfighter with newer and far greater capabilities than those provided by current systems, yet it is compatible with existing control systems and terminals. Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/marketwire/0316842.htm>=
9. *October 18, The Associated Press* – (Arizona, Southwest) **After delays, ‘virtual fence’ nearly ready for acceptance testing.** Defense contractor Boeing Co. has told the government it believes it has solved most of the problems that have delayed use of the first section of a high-tech “virtual fence” along the nation’s borders for months. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials, however, said they will wait until acceptance testing, now set for late October, is done before passing judgment. The 28-mile section of fence along the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Arizona is the first of thousands of miles planned on the nation’s southern and northern borders. Operation of the nine 98-foot towers north of the Arizona-Mexico border near the port of entry at Sasabe has been delayed for at least four months because of computer software glitches. Loaded with sensors, radar and sophisticated cameras, the towers are designed to detect illegal immigrants and drug smugglers coming through the heavily trafficked area southwest of Tucson. The \$20 million virtual fence pilot project remains on hold because software designed to integrate the results of sensor hits, radar readings and camera sightings was not working correctly. A glitch in the programming has kept it from providing a common operating picture for agents, who plan to use it to spot and capture illegal entrants and smugglers. Source: http://www.netimes.com/articles/2007/10/18//news/sandiego/15_06_0610_17_07.txt
10. *October 17, Laser Energetics, Inc.* – (National) **Laser Energetics delivers BrightStar(TM) Alexandrite laser to Fortune 50 Defense Company.** Laser Energetics, Inc. announced today that the company has delivered one of its BrightStar™ solid-state Alexandrite lasers, for a non-lethal laser defense application, to a Fortune 50 defense contractor. The BrightStar laser is part of the company’s current product line of conductively air cooled lasers. This BrightStar

laser was purchased for experiments that are classified, and which can potentially lead to a major program involving several thousand Alexandrite lasers. The value of the transaction was approximately \$79,000.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071017/nyw109.html?v=101>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 17, The Post Star* – (New York) **Police warn about new check scam.** Police were warning residents Wednesday about a strange fake check scam that seems to be targeting people by using a real, local Cambridge, New York business name, which police say makes this scam unique. At least a half-dozen Cambridge-area residents have reported to police that they received the checks over the last week, though none apparently tried to cash them or to follow the instructions that accompanied the checks, said the Cambridge Police Chief. The checks arrive via United Parcel Service addressed to specific homeowners in envelopes that bear the return address of “Mike Lima” from the Cambridge Gas & Oil Co. They also bear a local phone number that is not affiliated with the company, the chief said. Each envelope contains a counterfeit check made out to the recipient from a fictitious business called FIRS Inline Hockey of Crown Point, Indiana. An accompanying letter tells recipients to cash the check and wire a portion of the money to an individual in Tennessee.

Source:

<http://www.poststar.com/articles/2007/10/17/news/latest/doc47162a9cd3881505540232>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

12. *October 18, USA Today* - (National) **Most fake bombs missed by screeners.** According to a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) report obtained by *USA Today*, airport screeners did not detect fake bombs in over 60 percent of the tests conducted by undercover agents at three major airports. The report mentions a 75 percent rate of failure at Los Angeles International Airport, where 70 tests were performed; 60 percent at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, where the officials ran 75 tests; and a 20 percent rate of failure at San Francisco International Airport, where the screeners underwent 145 tests. Experts expressed their dismay at the failure rates at Los Angeles and Chicago because “screeners’ inability to find bombs could encourage terrorists to try to bring them on airplanes,” according to a former inspector general for Homeland Security. The TSA spokeswoman announced that the agency conducts undercover tests every day at every U.S. airport. Screeners, who fail to detect the dangerous materials, are required to undergo remedial training, according to the official. On Tuesday, the TSA chief told the House of Representatives that the failure rate was so high partially because screeners are exposed to increasingly more complex tests.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-10-17-airport-security_N.htm

13. *October 17, The Associated Press* - (National) **Small fire forces brief evacuation of Reagan terminal.** On Tuesday, a fire on the roof of the Reagan National Airport caused the evacuation of about 150 passengers from terminal A. The Metropolitan Washington Airports

Authority spokeswoman announced that the fire was ignited by construction materials. There were no reports of injuries, no flights were delayed, and the building did not suffer any damage.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-dc--airportfire1017oct17,0,2016910.story>

14. *October 17, The Associated Press* - (Minnesota) **Sensor rejected before Minn. bridge fell.**
According to a report released in November 2006, a consultant for the Minnesota Department of Transportation recommended high-tech sensors on various sectors of the interstate bridge that ultimately collapsed last August. However, at that time, the state's transportation officials decided to overlook the problem because there seemed to be no signs of cracking. According to a 2004-2006 study conducted by URS. Corp. -- a contractor with the state's DOT -- 20 critical truss beams on the bridge were considered to be "the most susceptible locations for crack initiations." Subsequently, the company suggested an acoustic emission monitoring system, which would have emitted "unusual signals detecting the possibility of steel cracking." Nevertheless, the president of a company making such monitors said that "there's no way to know whether such monitors would have detected the impending bridge collapse." A state bridge engineer said that DOT inspectors decided to use instead ultrasonic testing, which in his opinion was proven to "actually detect cracks." After the report was made public, URS refused to release any comments on its findings or recommendations made after its inspections of the bridge.
Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g7a6N-dSJUt3-hI_inQsk5RnFIKwD8SALKK80
15. *October 17, Reuters* - (National) **Cockpit window damage prompts advisory on 737s.**
Following two incidents in which two Boeing Co. 737 planes experienced loss of cabin pressure, U.S. aviation authorities asked airlines to conduct inspections of the aircraft's cockpit windows. The Federal Aviation Association also expressed concerns about vinyl supports, which, if cracked, "would make the window more vulnerable to failing if struck by birds."
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071017/us_nm/airlines_windows_dc;_ylt=Ajv96lN_gsJREDZoQSDjnzsWIr0F
16. *October 16, Congressional Quarterly* -- (International) **DHS 'daunted' by early results from cargo scanning mandate.** By July 2012, all cargo destined for the U.S. must be scanned at foreign ports, in accordance with the September 11 commission recommendation law. This date could be extended every two years thereafter, if the Secretary of Homeland Security finds that the available technology is inadequate. A 2006 port security law requires three foreign ports to pilot test scanning 100 percent of U.S.-bound containers using integrated scanning. The law requires the pilots reach "full-scale implementation" by October 13, 2007, a deadline DHS announced it has met at ports in Great Britain, Pakistan and Honduras under its Secure Freight Initiative. In a Senate committee hearing a DHS official announced that "'weather-related surprises' such as extreme heat and thunderstorms has created some challenges for equipment." He also stated that, while some shippers avoided the ports due to the higher fees associated with scanning, others preferred them, in order to reduce the chance of inspection on entering the U.S. The pilot program also noticed other challenges, including installation of

equipment, which must be reconfigured to individual ports' layouts; natural radiation from some concrete used at the ports can throw off the sensors; and figuring out how to scan trans-shipments, in which a container is transferred by crane directly from one ship to another.

Source: <http://public.cq.com/docs/hs/hsnews110-000002606155.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *October 17, Reuters* – (New York) **White powder found in NY government building.** On Wednesday, a package containing white powder was found outside the office of the New York City Council Speaker and was opened by a mailroom employee. The speaker is often mentioned as a potential candidate for mayor in 2009.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071017/pl_nm/newyork_powder_dc;_ylt=Anm1h7umRhAehwtrxY3z3zkWIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *September 17, The Associated Press* – (International) **Japan halts beef imports from U.S. plant.** Japan suspended beef imports from Cargill Inc.'s meatpacking plant in Dodge City, Kansas on Wednesday, saying 225 boxes of a recent 9 ton shipment contained tendons that were not properly identified on papers issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Japan banned American beef imports over mad cow fears more than three years ago, but has eased that restriction to allow imported meat from young cattle, as long as certain bones and the spinal cord have been removed and the meat has been processed at selected plants. Though the tendons do not pose a mad cow risk, a Cargill statement has acknowledged that boxes may have been erroneously sent to Japan. Shipments from the plant will be banned until Japan receives a detailed report on the mistake, the statement from Japan's Agriculture Ministry said.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/10/17/ap4230968.html>

19. *September 17, The Associated Press* – (California) **California battle builds over moth spraying.** California residents and government officials at the local, state, and federal levels are deadlocked over a state program to spray artificial pheromones aimed at disrupting the mating patterns of the light brown apple moth. The moth, an invasive species from Australia, has infested 12 counties stretching from north of San Francisco to Los Angeles, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) fears that if the moth, which consumes 250 varieties of plants, crosses into the San Joaquin Valley, the infestation could cause up to \$2.6 billion in agriculture losses. Officials and Suterra LLC, the manufacturer of the pheromone, refuse to release its ingredients, arguing that they are a trade secret. Locals say they have experienced adverse health effects after initial spraying and were granted a moratorium on spraying by a State Superior Court Judge. That moratorium expires on Thursday, when lawyers for the state and the environmental group that brought the original suit will present evidence about the program's health risks. The judge's ruling will determine whether the

spraying can start anew, but the California Secretary of Food and Agriculture has warned local officials that if the state is blocked from fighting the pest, the USDA could step in and take over.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gDBafi68i1rrzl5yvYoj0PX6eULg>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *October 18, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Water police: Inmates told to shorten showers.** Due to the drought in Georgia, state officials have limited inmates' showers and cut back on washing inmates' uniforms. These changes could save millions of gallons of water, but some worry that this could cause a problem with an "already-on-edge inmate population." Other critics worry about the spread of disease, especially staph infections. Officials have emphasized that the measures are only temporary.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/10/17/dirtyfelons_1018.html

21. *October 17, The Union-Tribune* – (California) **Olivenhain to get desalinated water.** The Olivenhain Municipal Water District has become the eighth agency to agree to buy desalinated ocean water from a proposed plant in Carlsbad, California. This means that the private developer of the plant now has contracts for more than its projected production. The plant should begin operating in 2010, but it still needs a permit from the California Coastal Commission.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20071017-0817-1bo17desalwater.html>

22. *October 17, The Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Corps could limit discharges from Georgia lake amid drought worries.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stated that they will continue to send water downstream from Georgia to Alabama and Florida, in order to abide by federal and state regulations. This comes in spite of the governor of Georgia asking them to stop due to the current drought. Millions of gallons of water are sent from Georgia to Florida and Alabama; the current situation has heightened tensions among the states. Florida has complained that the water flow is insufficient to protect mussels and other natural resources. In Alabama, the governor has urged the Corps to release more water from Georgia's lakes to help his state deal with the conditions. Georgia's officials have said they were unprepared for the severity of the drought, compounded by scorching heat and a drier-than-normal hurricane season. As the drought worsened, Georgia politicians claimed the Corps' stubborn agenda intensified the water shortage. Local environmentalists argued that the state should have been better prepared for a water shortage, which they say is an inevitable result of decades of pro-growth policy that led to metro Atlanta's sprawl. More than a quarter of the Southeast is covered by an "exceptional" drought – the National Weather Service's worst drought category – and Georgia is taking extreme measures to conserve water.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/weather/10/17/southerndrought.ap/index.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *September 18, The Associated Press* – (Texas) **San Antonio clinic treats 300-500 staph infections a month.** A Texas MedClinic doctor said Wednesday that a deadly strain of staph, called MRSA, that is believed to have killed a 17-year-old Virginia high school senior, is becoming increasingly common in San Antonio. He said that antibiotics are completely useless in treating the infection that is commonly spread through day cares, gyms and locker rooms. Last year the clinic recorded more than 600 MRSA cases, but this year, it has recorded almost that many on a monthly basis.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,303157,00.html>
24. *September 17, The Washington Times* – (National) **TB-tainted man crosses border 76 times.** A Mexican national infected with the highly contagious multidrug-resistant (MDR) form of tuberculosis crossed the U.S. border 76 times and took multiple domestic flights in the last year, according to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) interviews and documents obtained by *The Washington Times*. CBP was warned by health officials on April 16 that the frequent traveler was infected, but it took Homeland Security officials more than six weeks to issue a May 31 alert to warn its own border inspectors, according to anonymous Homeland Security sources. Homeland Security took one more week to forward the information to its own Transportation Security Agency (TSA). MDR is the same dangerous strain of tuberculosis that a 31-year-old Atlanta lawyer had when he entered the U.S. from Europe via a flight to Canada in May of 2007, creating wide-spread concern over the inability of numerous public health agencies to keep people known to have infectious diseases from flying.
Source:
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071017/NATION/110170103/1001>
25. *September 17, Reuters* – (National) **Bird flu plans failing children, report says.** According to a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Trust for America's Health released on Wednesday, U.S. plans for a flu pandemic fail to take into account children, who will likely be among the biggest spreaders of the disease and its most vulnerable victims. Governments have been planning for a pandemic for at least two years, but experts complain the U.S. federal plan (available at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>) lacks needed details. Federal and state governments have not stockpiled nearly enough flu-fighting drugs, no one has laid out a coherent plan for what to do with tens of millions of school children if schools and day-care centers are closed, and no federal policies have addressed the issue of parents who would have to choose between losing pay or caring for their children, the experts said.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071017/us_nm/birdflu_children_usa_dc;_ylt=ArTM3zBaxY9h7ePULk72Q6wWIr0F

Government Facilities Sector

26. *October 17, Reuters* – (New York) **White powder found in NY government building.** On Wednesday, a package containing white powder was found outside the office of the New York City Council Speaker and was opened by a mailroom employee. The speaker is often

mentioned as a potential candidate for mayor in 2009.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071017/pl_nm/newyork_powder_dc:_ylt=Anm1h7umRhAehwtrxY3z3zkWIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

27. *October 17, WALB Albany* – (Georgia) **Airport conducts mock plane crash drill.** Fire trucks and ambulances roared across the Southwest Georgia Regional Airport a little after ten, responding to a mock plane crash. Turner Job Corps Students, who wore realistic makeup to be more believable crash victims in the Disaster Exercise, cried out in pain. The airport police chief said “we’ve got 18 victims scattered about the aircraft and around the aircraft.” The airport fire trucks spray water on the crashed plane at the end of runway 16, to put out the fire. A short time later Albany Fire Department trucks and Dougherty County EMS ambulances arrived to help. Airport officials said they set up this exercise at the back of the airport, so that firefighters would be called to different gates, knowing it could cause communication problems. Albany’s fire chief said “we did experience one problem where we could not communicate directly with them. So that’s something we have got to work out.” Airport officials will hold a meeting with all the First Responding agencies in two weeks, to go over what they learned from the disaster exercise. A report will be issued to the Federal Aviation Association, which requires a disaster exercise every three years.

Source: http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7228021&nav=menu37_3

28. *October 16, The Sacramento Bee* – (California) **California EMT background checks vetoed.** California’s governor has vetoed a bill calling for the state’s 70,000 emergency medical technicians to undergo background checks, saying the legislation would have limited public disclosures about rogue rescuers and thwarted independent probes into their misconduct. In his veto message, the governor said the mandatory background checks in Assembly Bill 941 were a great idea, but the final version of the legislation sent to him for signing was flawed and fell short of protecting public safety and providing stronger oversight of EMTs. “I am concerned this bill lacks requirements and penalties to assure timely notice when an investigation is initiated, does not provide sufficient authority for local medical directors to independently initiate investigations, and fails to establish clear standards for background checks,” the governor wrote. “In addition, I am concerned that the bill would significantly limit public disclosure.” The *Sacramento Bee* reported last week that, despite being the product of months of negotiations among emergency medical services players, the final version of AB 941 sent to the governor had come under fire. In his veto message, the governor said he is returning the bill to the Health and Human Services Agency, urging officials there to work with players in the state’s emergency medical services world to improve and build on AB 941 and “get the job done” next year.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/California-EMT-Background-Checks-Vetoed-/1\\$6387](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/California-EMT-Background-Checks-Vetoed-/1$6387)

29. *October 15, The Associated Press* – (California) **New agency to create water-based emergency transit system.** California’s governor visited the Alameda waterfront Monday to

mark the creation of a new agency aimed at bolstering ferry service as a fallback if an earthquake or other disaster takes out area bridges and highways. "The bay area will be better prepared for an emergency and also the people of the bay area will be much safer," he said. The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority was created by a bill signed by the governor on Friday. The agency is getting \$250 million from state infrastructure bonds passed last November to start work on building more boats and terminals. The agency consolidates existing state-funded ferry systems under its control, including the Alameda/Oakland Ferry, the Vallejo Baylink Ferry and the Harbor Bay Ferry. The Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District ferry will not be under the jurisdiction of the new agency. The idea for a better ferry system was prompted by the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20071015-1359-ca-transportationsafety.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

30. *October 18, Computerworld* – (National) **States ask for Microsoft oversight until 2012.** A group of state attorney generals urged a federal judge on Tuesday to hold Microsoft Corp. to a 2002 antitrust settlement another five years so that the company cannot stymie embryonic Web 2.0 rivals of its Windows operating system. According to six states -- California, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and Massachusetts -- and the District of Columbia, Microsoft could use its Internet Explorer browser as a "chokepoint" to block moves that might unseat Windows' dominant position on the desktop. Although the states had said they would ask for an extension last month in a hearing before a U.S. District Court judge, the motion filed Tuesday formalized the request. Key parts of the consent decree that Microsoft struck with the U.S. Department of Justice and 20 states back in 2002 are scheduled to expire November 12. In August, federal regulators and those from New York, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio and Wisconsin told the judge that the decree had done its job. The group of five other states plus Washington, D.C., dubbed the California group, disagreed.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9043119&intsrc=hm_list

31. *October 17, Techworld* – (National) **Backing up clogs enterprise systems.** Backup volumes in many organizations have grown so large that they are causing business disruption by tying up systems, storage, and network capacity and hogging valuable IT resources, according to a recent survey commissioned by storage management software vendor BridgeHead Software. More than half (59 percent) of IT executives said that the volume of data they are forced to backup is disrupting business operations or will do so eventually, according to a survey of 472 IT executives in the U.K. and North America. And the problem is not going away, with 93 percent saying that their routine backup volumes are continuing to increase. The problem is consuming IT resources for long periods with 37 percent admitting that daily backups of primary data now take them more than nine hours, while 19 percent said it took them more than 12 hours. More than two-thirds (84 percent) of those polled felt they could benefit by reducing the volume of data they routinely back up. One of the most effective ways of

reducing the pressure on backups is to take information that is static or seldom accessed and archive it off primary storage systems according to BridgeHead Software's CEO.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/17/Backing-up-clogs-enterprise-systems_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

32. *October 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **Cafe Latte attack steals data from Wi-Fi PCs.**

If you use a secure wireless network, hackers may be able to steal data from your computer in the time it takes to have a cup of coffee. At the Toorcon hacking conference in San Diego this coming weekend, a security researcher will demonstrate a technique he has developed to attack laptops that use the WEP encryption system to log on to secure wireless networks. Developed in the late 1990s, WEP was the default method of securing Wi-Fi networks. Though the WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) system replaced it, about 41 percent of businesses continue to use WEP. That percentage is even higher among home users, security experts say. That is unfortunate because WEP has been riddled with security problems. In fact, WEP was blamed for the recent TJX Companies data breach in which thieves were able to access 45 million credit- and debit-card numbers. To date, however, researchers have tended to focus on exploiting WEP flaws in order to break into wireless networks. That generally meant that the attacker would roll up near the WEP-encrypted router, crack the WEP key used to encrypt network traffic, and then log on to the network. The researcher, a senior wireless security researcher with AirTight Networks, has taken a look at the client side of things and developed a way of tricking a WEP-enabled client into thinking that it is logging on to a network that it already knows. His technique, which he calls the Cafe Latte attack, allows an attacker to circumvent firewall protection and attack the laptop or to set up a "man in the middle" attack and snoop on the victim's online activity. "Until now, the conventional belief was that in order to crack WEP, the attacker had to show up at the parking lot," he said. "With the discovery of our attack, every employee of an organization is the target of an attack."

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/17/Cafe-Latte-attack-steals-data-from-Wi-Fi-PCs_1.html

33. *October 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **Couple swarmed by SWAT team after 911 'hack.'** A Washington State teenager is facing 18 years in prison on charges that he used his computer to access Orange County, California's 911 emergency response system and convinced the sheriff's department into storming an area couple's home with a heavily armed SWAT team. The nineteen-year-old, of Mulkiteo, Washington is not only facing charges of unauthorized computer access, but he is also facing assault charges by proxy, meaning that

authorities want Ellis to be convicted as if he, and not the SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) team, pointed weapons at the victims. The incident took place late in the evening of March 29, when Ellis allegedly used his computer to call the Orange County 911 dispatch and, during the course of a 38-minute telephone conversation, convinced dispatchers that he had murdered someone on the premises and was about to do it again. Within minutes, fire, police and a helicopter team had been dispatched to the home of the Lake Forest, California couple, whom authorities declined to identify. A spokeswoman with the Orange County District Attorney's office characterized the suspect as a "computer hacker," but declined to explain exactly how the attack was carried out. "One of the reasons that we're not disclosing exactly how he did it is because we don't want to teach other computer hackers how to do it," she said. Still, it is not clear that Ellis's alleged hack involved anything more complicated than tricking the 911 system into thinking he was calling from the Lake Forest couple's number. County officials said Wednesday that he did not exploit a technical flaw in the 911 system's software. Authorities said that the suspect had made nearly 200 fake 911 calls to dispatch systems in California, Arizona, Washington and Pennsylvania. He is set to be arraigned Monday in Santa Ana, California.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9043098&intsrc=hm_list

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *September 18, Rochester Post Bulletin* – (Minnesota) **Loans available to help flood-affected Winona businesses.** Winona County commissioners signed an agreement for a \$6.8 million loan program from the state to help local businesses recover from recent flooding. The money is part of the \$30 million Minnesota Investment Fund. An estimated 100 businesses in cities including Winona, St. Charles, Lewiston, Stockton, Elba, Minnesota City, and Goodview were affected by the August rains and floods. Small businesses and nonprofit agencies may obtain as much as \$500,000 each in low-interest loans to renovate, rebuild, buy equipment or buy land, among other uses. They may take out a loan for as much as 75 percent of the estimated value of the damage to their business. Half the value will be forgiven for businesses still operating five years after receiving the loan; the other half carries a 1 percent interest rate, well below current market rates. In general, the loans must be repaid within seven years; real estate loans can be stretched over 21 years.

Source:

http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?a=312118&z=2

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *October 17, The Rapid City Journal* – (Wyoming) **Spikes damage logging vehicle.** The U.S. Forest Service is investigating three long, metal spikes buried in a Black Hills National Forest road in Wyoming, which damaged a logging contractor's vehicle earlier this week. According to the district ranger, two of the metal spikes were similar to stakes used in masonry

construction, while the other appeared to be wrought iron. He said “it’s not in a highly sensitive area, and there were no public concerns.” The Forest Service is investigating and stated that it is too soon to determine if the stakes were placed intentionally.

Source:

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2007/10/17/news/local/doc4716c1ff99114281634054.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

36. *October 17, The Record* – (California) **Dam bond proposal dead in the water.** Tuesday was the deadline for the new water bond proposal to be on the February presidential primary ballot for California, but neither the governor nor state lawmakers were able to compromise in time. Both claim that the other needs to make concessions. The Democrat-controlled legislature’s plan should be on the November 2008 ballot. It stresses underground water storage, conservation, and recycling over new reservoirs, although it does include some money for small dams. The Republican governor’s proposal emphasizes above-ground storage. If the two sides reach a compromise by early November, supplementary ballots could be sent out for the February primary vote. Otherwise, the two measures are likely to both be on the November 2008 ballot.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071017/A_NEWS/710170313

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.

